

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 9, 1999 and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and, in view of the amendments herein to the claims and the following representations, reconsideration of the application in its present form is respectfully requested.

First, Applicant has reflected that the parent case filed under serial no. 08/600,400 is abandoned.

With respect to the Disclosure Document no. 387,572 filed on June 20, 1995, Applicant refers to the Applicant's Declaration Under Rule 132 and Rule 131 at Exhibit ~~B~~A therein, which identifies this Disclosure Document with more particulars, including a copy of same.

In view of the amendment herein with of Claim 4, Applicant has corrected the wording of the at least one element. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 more particularly points out and distinctly claims the present invention.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 103 based on obviousness, in view of the Applicant's "Declaration under Rule 132 and Rule 131", it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,446,617 of Blocher the CO-NECTIC publication reference be withdrawn.

The substance of the Declaration under Rule 132 and Rule 131 is that the present invention demonstrates superior results over the theoretical combination of Blocher '617 and the CO-NECTIC reference. As noted in Applicant's Declaration, Blocher '617 electrically grounds a fluorescent ballast, but the present invention magnetically shields a fluorescent ballast.

Moreover, Applicant submits under Rule 131 that Applicant conceived of the present invention before the May 13, 1994 filing date of Blocher '617, and diligently reduced the invention to practice by the original filing of the prior parent application filed on February 12, 1996.

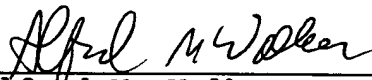
Although the present invention is a continuation-in-part with a filing date of June 13, 1998, the new material was incidental to what was previously filed in the parent application filed on February 12, 1996.

Therefore, since Blocher '617 should be withdrawn under either Rule 131 or Rule 132, the rejection of under 35 USC 103 is requested to be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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